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MISERLINE

A Publication of MISER, The Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

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1994
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Volume 1 No. 1 *Spring 1994*

MISER Provides Data For Health Care Reform

by Alice Rarig

MISER recently co-hosted a 3-day conference on health care reform entitled: "Can New England and the U.S. Learn from Other Health Care Systems?". Legislators challenged academicians and researchers to provide policy makers with data that would be used to monitor the impact of the proposed plan as it is implemented.

There were over 200 attendees, including providers, academicians, and other policy analysts. They heard from experts on the German, Canadian, and Swedish health care systems about financing, costs, and the processes for negotiating provincial or county budgets and services. Speakers from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Urban Institute, and the Clinton health care task force described current health care costs. They also discussed issues being raised in the U.S debate about rationing of health care, cost control, choice, and payment for health services.

Comparisons were drawn between the Clinton proposal and the existing U.S. system, as well as the other national systems presented. Speakers examined the possibility of adopting "single payer" type programs at the state level or forming regional "health alliances" as part of the implementation of the Clinton plan.

State legislators presented their current proposals for reform. Both consumer and professional *(page 4)*

Breakthrough in Data Access

MISER recently released the first prototype version of its Public Policy Database, which was developed for the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee in Boston. "This is a general purpose on-line statistical analysis database of social and economic characteristics for cities, towns, and counties", according to Richard Ureña, MISER Senior Policy Data Analyst. The system provides statistical analysis using tables, graphs, and charts. The data can be exported to a spreadsheet for additional refinement as needed. "The prototype has 500 variables ranging from the age and sex of the population to the number of children in a household dependent on public assistance", says Ureña, "but a more expanded database of over 5,000 variables is planned for the future." The data will come from a variety of sources and currently includes data from the 1990 Census and the State's Departments of Revenue and Education.

Eventually, the level of software sophistication is expected to grow to include map drawing, which will apply the data to areas of interest for a more complete and illustrative product. It will also offer *(page 2)*

Building a Stronger Workforce

MISER is producing a report for the Massachusetts Jobs Council to determine the technical, legal, and financial feasibility of creating a Placement Accountability System (PAS). This system would link data on education and training to employment and occupational information.

The goals of the Mass. Placement Accountability System are to involve businesses and educational institutions in the development of training programs that address current demands, to provide information to students and the workforce about training *(page 4)*

A Word From the Director - *by Stephen Coelen*

MISER is Massachusetts' major repository of detailed information on its people and its economy. With our offices in Amherst at the University of Massachusetts and in Boston at the Saltonstall Building, we handle thousands of requests each year for data and data analysis. Requests come from state agencies, businesses, students, and citizens all around New England.

MISER has become particularly strong in the analyses of demographic change, education, and foreign trade. The choices of our specializations have not been an accident. From the very foundation of MISER in 1982, we saw that the highly educated population of the Commonwealth gave it a world-wide advantage. This strength is what bridges the areas of our specialization.

As MISER has grown, the vastness of our data holdings has required that we increase storage and stay at the cutting edge of data distribution. As a result, MISER is now considered a national leader in the distribution of data over networks using client-server technologies. We are engaged in several projects around the country using this technology: our trade database, along with local customizations, is available to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan; our information about education is available throughout the Northeast, from New York to Maine; and our occupational data reports are distributed throughout Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

I believe that the university of the future will change significantly. As society gains the ability to fully utilize information through the successful application of computers, universities will play a special role since they contain a unique understanding of how the data should be used. MISER, as part of the State's University, is committed to being on the forefront of this initiative.■

What's Hot

☞MISER is developing a Regional Education Database called "BigRED", which contains data on New England and NY school enrollment in grades K - 12 from 1975 to the present, as well as information about the teacher work force. BigRED will enable school districts to make more informed policy decisions based on current and projected data.

☞MISER has developed a technical working relationship with MCI Corporation for use of a frame-relay circuit as an alternative to the Internet. This may be used to connect CT, NY, and MA. Plans with MCI involve MISER's work in both trade and education.

☞An atlas of Massachusetts governmental service areas is being developed at MISER. TIGER/Line Census files are used to delineate areas of interest. State service agencies group cities, towns, tracts, blocks, and districts into areas for the purpose of serving local communities more efficiently. We produce full color maps of these areas which can be a useful tool in administering programs and tracking the delivery of services.

☞The Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington D.C. offers several *free* newsletters on topics such as employment, earnings, and consumer prices. Call (202) 606-5402 to subscribe.

Breakthrough, *from page 1*

regression analysis, which will allow analytical work without leaving the retrieval system.

What makes this database unique and extremely accessible is that it is designed to operate as a client-server system. The data will reside at MISER so that it can be maintained and updated. Users or clients can access the data remotely by way of the Internet. The software interface on the client side is a GUI-based application that can be run on a variety of computers including PC's and MAC's.■

Population Projection Update ...

Population projections for the years 2000 and 2005 will be out soon. Please refer to upcoming issues of MISERLINE for more information.

Affiliates in Action

Affiliates: Thank You for taking the time to respond to our recent Questionnaire. We appreciate your comments.

Answers to Your Questions:

Q. *Are we having an affiliate meeting soon?*

A. Yes, we're planning another affiliate meeting. July is our target. More information will be coming along soon. We would like to collect the first set of data request results at that meeting, so please have them tabulated for the first half of the year.

Q. *Where can we get technical help reading our CD-ROM's?*

A. Give us a call. We can help.

Q. *Do you have an on-line data service available?*

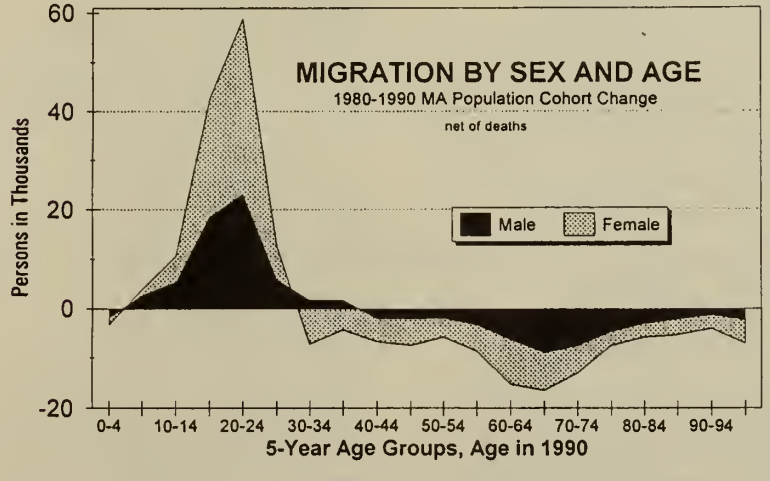
A. Not at the present, but the policy database prototype is a huge step in that direction. We estimate that within a year you may be able to access several of MISER's databases by Internet and by modem. We'll keep you posted!

Q. *What is your email address?*

A. Our Internet email address is: miser@miser.umass.edu. We check in every day, so feel free to communicate your questions or comments to us using email.

☞*If any of our affiliates would like to contribute articles or information, contact the editor. All submissions are subject to editing and will be included as space allows.*

MASSACHUSETTS DRAWS YOUNGER POPULATION



Sources: U.S. Census files for 1980 & 1990, and Mass. Dept. of Public Health vital statistics

Between 1980 and 1990, Massachusetts lost more citizens over age 30 through migration than it gained. But in-migration of younger people, particularly in the college age and young adult groups, offset the numbers of older citizens moving away.

The graph shows the difference between the number in each age group that would have been expected in 1990 (if there had been no migration) and the actual 1990 census count. For children younger than ten, the difference is between the number of surviving children (births minus deaths) and the 1990 census count.■

Bits and Bytes

☞1993 Statistical Abstract on CD-ROM has been shipped to our affiliates with CD readers. Let us know if you did not receive it.

☞ REIS CD-ROM is a "BEST BUY" from the Bureau of Economic Analysis for $35. It includes regional economic data for *all* U.S. states, counties, and metro areas for 1969 - 1992, including personal income by major sources, per capita personal income, regional economic profiles, and much more. Affiliates should receive this automatically.

☞ 1992 Economic Census products are coming soon. We will offer training at our Boston and Amherst locations. Stay tuned for more info.

☞ If you have access to an Internet Gopher Server, look for us in the near future. We'll be posting news and a few free sample products.

Oscar's Pick

The 1993 Statistical Abstract of the U.S. is a wonderful reference book for anyone who needs information fast! It contains an extensive collection of social, economic, and political data in an easy-to-read format. To order, call the Census Bureau at (301) 763-4100.

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MISER - "DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION AND SERVICE"

The MISER State Data Center has the most extensive demographic and business-related data offered by the Census Bureau. We can tailor reports to suit your needs, including information about age, income, education, occupation, housing, business, industry, transportation, local government, foreign trade export, and much more.

Health, from page 1

respondents, and the audience at large, engaged senators and representatives in discussion of issues, such as long-term care and the potential impact of proposals on access of services to minorities. Many of the comparisons among the systems involve data on costs and measures of effectiveness and acceptability.

MISER recognizes the need for schemes for monitoring the cost and impact of policy changes as reforms are implemented at the state and national level. As a State Data Center, MISER is working with other researchers and government agencies in the region to ensure the availability and analysis of data. ■

Building, from page 1

and occupational changes, and to evaluate the effectiveness of training programs. This system will substantially reduce the current costs of Federal reporting requirements by providing more efficient mechanisms for the collection of relevant information.

Creation of a Placement Accountability System would establish a near "real-time" occupational supply and demand system for the first time in Massachusetts. This would serve as an indicator for likely future industrial and occupational expansion. It would provide information to students and trainees to prepare them for the changing needs of the workplace, and it would provide information to employers on where to find skilled labor. ■

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MISERLINE

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Vol. 1 No. 2 *Summer 1994*

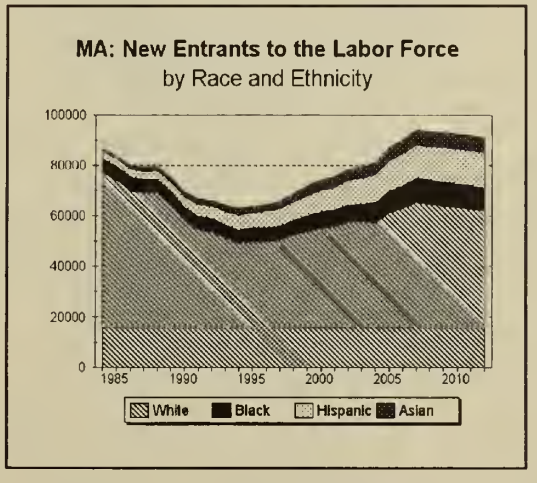
MISER and NELLIE MAE Look BEYOND 2000

by Richard Ureña

If present educational and demographic trends continue, New England will face a shortage of qualified workers in the labor force. This is one of the main conclusions of "BEYOND 2000: Demographic Change, Education and the Work Force", a 51-page report produced by MISER with funding from the New England Educational Loan Management Association (Nellie Mae).

Nellie Mae is a private, non-profit corporation that assures access to higher education by providing education loan capital for students. Their interest in identifying the barriers to higher education access in New England was the motivation for "BEYOND 2000."

The study identified the need for increasing the level of educational attainment in the labor force, with research



focusing on how the labor market puts a premium on educational attainment beyond high school.

People without some level of higher education continue to lag in earning power. This trend is likely to continue as the region's economy becomes increasingly based on services and high technology. At present, about half of the adults in the region have a high school diploma or less.

The study found that while substantial improvements have been made in higher educational attainment in New England over the past two decades, the pace of change appears to have slowed down in more recent years. Access to higher education has continued to improve, but college completions *(page 4)*

Population Projections -- Growth, Aging, Diversity

by Alice Rarig

New Census Bureau projections of the population of Massachusetts by race, ethnicity, age, and sex show an expected gradual growth in population over the next three decades, from 6,012,000 (July 1990 estimate) to 6,363,000 according to the "A" series (cohort component model), or as high as 6,820,000 according to the econometric model of the "B" projections series (Current Population Report P25-1111).

The "A" series of the 4 sets of projections uses a modified cohort component approach to see the implications of recent fertility, migration, and survival trends. These projections indicate that the size of the White population will fluctuate slightly, while minority population growth will account for most of the net increase. The larger increases for all subgroups associated with the "B" series are more consistent with MISER's analyses of components of population change than the "A" series , and thus are cited below.

The "B" series projections for Mass. suggest that the White population will increase between 1990 and 2020 from 5,526,000 to about 5,897,000. However, the Asian and Pacific Islander population is likely to triple during this time from 146,000 to about 438,000, and the Black population is likely to increase from about 327,000 to 473,000.

The population will be older, with the proportion over age 65 increasing from 14% to 17%, and 0 - 18 yr olds representing 22% of the total, down from 24% in 1990. *(page 3)*

MISER Improves National Trade Data

by Linda Downs-Bembury and Carla Miller

MISER instituted a state of origin of movement foreign trade export data series in 1988, developing an imputation algorithm to improve state of origin of movement export statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau. This was necessary to correct a major problem with the data: approximately 25% of the raw data records are missing (either the state or the SIC code or both). MISER's algorithm solves the problem by filling in missing states and SIC codes with the statistically most likely states and SIC codes. MISER is now responsible for the national data series running from 1987 to 1993 on an annual basis, with quarterly updates current to the second quarter of 1994.

Beginning in 1993, the Census Bureau instituted a new ZIP code of exporter series. It was believed that the new series would be an improvement over state of origin of movement. However, MISER's comparison of ZIP code of exporter and state of origin data for 1993 show them to be two completely different data sets. The ZIP code of exporter data indicated that with the shift in data base, many states such as Texas lost billions in manufactured products as well as agricultural products. Other states, including New York, Delaware, Connecticut, and Washington D.C., showed a huge gain. The data actually reflected broker and company headquarters information rather than the actual origin of export.

At issue is the production location of the exported product as it enters the trade stream. Neither the ZIP code data nor the state of origin data are able to give accurate information about agricultural exports. For example, the ZIP code data places New York as the largest agricultural exporting state, when in fact it is the largest port of export for agricultural products. Similarly, Texas is unlikely to be producing as little in manufactured products as the ZIP code data suggests.

MISER maintains both series for the federal government and disseminates them across the U.S. to individual states. The Institute believes its original state of origin data are better for estimating the production location of manufactured products. The exporter location series is better at locating the broker or shipper. For agricultural exports, it may be better to use U.S. Department of Agriculture export statistics than to use either origin of movement or ZIP code of exporter data.■

Trivia Quiz

Name the county in Massachusetts that ranks highest in each of the following:

1. Area
2. Population
3. Population Density
4. Median Age
5. Average Persons Per Household
6. Median Household Income

Boston Office Bulletin

●MISER's Boston Office keeps legislators informed of facts that are important to their constituency. We recently presented the legislature with a report from the Census Bureau which showed that 2 million more Americans lacked health insurance in 1993 than in 1992. The study also noted that approximately 10% of Massachusetts residents (based on a 3-year average from 1990-1992) were without health care coverage.■
--Richard Serani

●New political district maps will be used to conduct the state elections in the 40 Senate and 160 House legislative districts this Fall. Under an agreement with the special joint Committee on Redistricting, MISER recently provided 8-page demographic profiles of the new House districts to Massachusetts representatives. The profiles contain information about population and housing from the 1990 Census, and are designed to give representatives a better understanding of the demographic composition of their communities.

In 1989 MISER was designated by the governor and legislative leadership to provide public access to redistricting information under PL94-171. This resulted in the creation of a political district database which has allowed us to aggregate data from the block level to the legislative district level.■ *--Bill Murray*

What's Hot

☞The Census Bureau has released the Current Population Report, P25-1111 (Stock #803-004-00120-6). It contains population projections for states by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for 1993 - 2020. The report costs $5.00 and can be ordered by calling the Government Printing Office (202)783-3238.

What's Hot Update ...

The corrected publications phone number for the Bureau of Labor Statisics in Washington is 202-606-7828. Please use this number to subscribe to free newsletters on topics such as employment, earnings, and consumer prices.

Projections, from page 1

Since in and out migration have typically offset each other in Massachusetts in recent years, the expected population growth is due primarily to natural increase.

MISER is exploring the social and economic factors that influence migration, fertility, and mortality of the various subgroups of the Commonwealth's population to develop a better understanding of the components of change and to refine the projections that policy-makers need for diverse planning purposes. MISER's projections to 2005 for city and town populations by age group, sex, and race/ethnicity are still "in the works" at press time.

Year:	1990	2000	2010	2020
Total	6,012.2	6,254.3	6,495.5	6,820.3
Age 0 - 18	1,449.3	1,591.0	1,530.3	1,524.8
Age 19 - 64	3,745.4	3,807.3	4,060.0	4,143.3
Age 65 and up	817.5	856.0	905.2	1,152.2
Race (incl. Hispanic ethnicity):				
White	5,526.5	5,634.1	5,731.6	5,897.3
Black	327.0	375.5	422.7	473.5
Asian & Pacific Islander	145.8	233.0	330.0	438.3
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	13.0	11.7	11.3	11.2

Population Projections for Massachusetts to 2020, prepared by U.S. Bureau of the Census. Series "B", the Econometric Model (Numbers in Thousands)■

Population Estimates

by Alice Rarig

MISER released the U.S. Census Bureau's city and town 1992 population estimates for Massachusetts in February with a cautionary memorandum indicating concern about possible problems with the numbers. Further analysis of the estimates has found apparent underestimation of several cities and towns. MISER's request to the Bureau of the Census for a review of methodology and data sources has resulted in the careful scrutiny and likely refinement of the Bureau's estimation model. MISER staff will work closely with the Bureau to review any new estimates series before they are released. MISER will distribute any new or revised data as soon as they become available to the Interagency Committee for Population Statistics (ICPS), and to cities, towns, and state and regional planning agencies.

ICPS, MISER's advisory group for population estimates and projections, has established two working groups to explore the issues raised by the estimates review since revised numbers will likely increase federal funding to the State. A Working Group on Revenue Implications will explore the impact that population changes have on revenue, assessments, and on eligibility for special grants. A Working Group on Estimates Methodology, which has already begun to explore the components and measurement of migration into, out of, and within Massachusetts, will work with MISER staff to examine ways that the population estimates might be improved.■

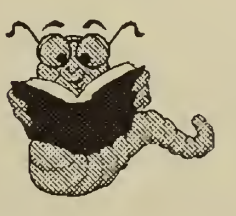
Bits and Bytes

☞MISER is now on GOPHER. The address is GOPHER.UMASS.EDU and the menu path is: 11.Research Information >> 10.Institutes >> 1.MISER.

☞LandView™ software is available on the recent release of the 1992 TIGER/Line files CD-ROM. LandView™ allows you to display TIGER/Line files onscreen and provides corresponding census population and housing data at the block group level.

☞The Census Bureau is offering a workshop on EXTRACT (the public domain software on Census Bureau CD-ROMs) in Boston on Sept. 13. The cost is $99. Contact Dorothy Chin at (301)763-1510.

☞The Bureau of Economic Analysis is offering a REIS CD-ROM workshop in Portland, Maine on Sept. 17 & 18. The cost is $30. Contact Jeff Newman or Callan Swenson at (202)606-5360.



Oscar's Pick

The 1994 Census Catalog and Guide (Stock #003-024-08752-9) is a comprehensive guide to all the Census Bureau's products. This issue has a special feature: reference information covering every data file and report issued from mid-1988 through the end of 1993. The cost is $22. Call the Government Printing Office at (202)783-3238. *SDC Affiliates should receive this automatically.*

Nellie Mae, from page 1

have not increased at the same rate.

The study analyzed completion rates from Kindergarten to Bachelors Degree by race and ethnicity. What emerged was a comprehensive picture of the changing size and ethnic composition of the region's labor force. There is a need for increased attention to minority educational attainment in the region. In Massachusetts, for example, 22% of the new entrants to the labor force today are minority, up from 12% in 1985 (see graph on pg. 1). This will increase to more than 30% by the year 2007. The labor force in the region is becoming ethnically diverse at an accelerated rate, and there is room for improvements in minority access and attainment in higher education. As an example, Hispanics will soon become the largest minority component of new entrants to the labor force. At present, however, over two-thirds of adult Hispanics have at most a high school diploma.

The challenge for New England is to continue to achieve high rates of educational attainment in its labor force in the face of these demographic changes.

To obtain a copy of "BEYOND 2000", contact Diane Saunders at Nellie Mae (617-849-1325).■

Answers to Trivia Quiz

1. Worcester (19% of state)
2. Middlesex (23% of state)
3. Suffolk (nearly 15 times state avg.)
4. Dukes (37.1 vs 33.6 state)
5. Plymouth (2.84 vs 2.58 state)
6. Norfolk (125% of state median)

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The MISER State Data Center has the most extensive demographic and business-related data offered by the Census Bureau. We can tailor reports to suit your needs, including information about age, income, education, occupation, housing, business, industry, transportation, local government, foreign trade exports, and much more.

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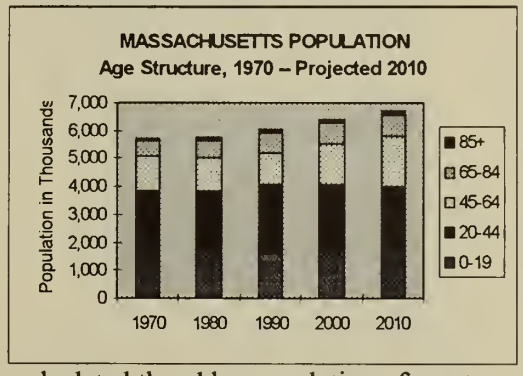
Volume 1 No. 3 *Fall 1994*

Massachusetts Population Shows Growth

- by Alice Rarig

MISER's new population projection series for Massachusetts indicates that there will be a gradual growth of the population over the next two decades. This growth will be due primarily to natural increase (the excess of births over deaths). Very little net migration is expected.

MISER's projections assume continued, though more moderate, growth or shrinkage for each municipality compared with the previous decade. City and town projections reflect expected growth in urban areas which experienced waves of in-migration in the 1980s. In-migration increased the young population of childbearing and school-aged groups, leading to continued projected growth from births. Out-migration has depleted the older population of most communities, with the exception of Cape Cod, which is experiencing a growth of the older age group. This is due to a large in-migration of older residents, a lower mortality rate, and aging of the resident population.



In Worcester County, both natural increase and in-migration are expected to fuel growth. Little change is expected in Middlesex, Norfolk, and Hampden counties where negative net migration will be offset by natural increase. In Berkshire County, out-migration is expected to exceed natural increase, resulting in a net loss of population.

The projection model *(page 4)*

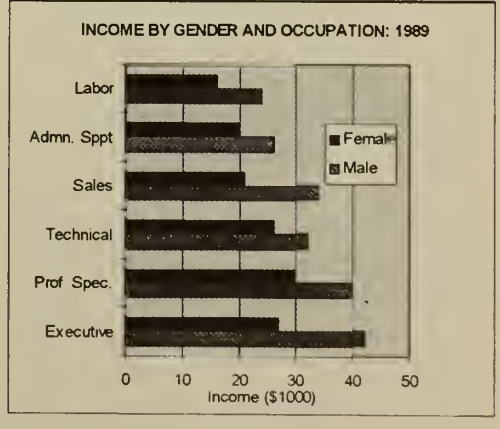
Women Are Closing The Earnings Gap

In a recent study with the Massachusetts Women's Legislative Caucus, MISER determined that in 1990 women in Massachusetts working full time still earn less than men in all race groups and for all occupations even though they have achieved similar levels of education. Nevertheless, the earnings gap is closing.

A recent survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor shows that in 1993 women's earnings nationally were 71% of men's earnings. Massachusetts averages were slightly higher at about 73%, up from 62% in 1980. From 1979 to 1989, median earnings of women working full time increased over 103%, in contrast to an average of only 68% for comparable men. If this trend continues, Massachusetts women are well on their way to closing the earnings gap.

Earnings of both women and men increase with more education. The median earned income of full-time female employees as a percentage of full-time males' earnings held steady as educational attainment increased, with the exception of the graduate/professional degree category where women's earnings were lower relative to men's. Women with an advanced degree earned only about 68% of what men earned on average.

Most women with less than a high school education held jobs in labor occupations (i.e. machine operators or assemblers). Women with more education increased their *(page 2)*



Energy Assistance for Needy Residents

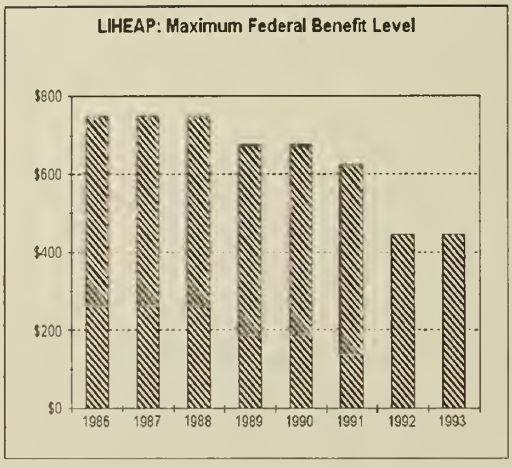
- by Karen MacKinnon

During the Summer of 1993, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD) contracted with MISER to help review a fuel assistance benefit distribution formula for its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). MISER saw this contract as an opportunity to help distribute millions of fuel assistance dollars more equitably across more than 147,000 eligible households.

Despite the decreasing Federal funding for fuel assistance, the number of eligible households had increased. Consequently, the distribution of these funds had become increasingly important.

Historically, the fuel assistance formulas had considered household size and income, type of fuel used for heating, and whether or not a household received a housing subsidy. EOCD was required to evaluate and redesign its benefit formula due to a change in Federal regulations concerning these criteria.

MISER collected and analyzed data from all subgrantee agencies, households, and fuel vendors. After extensive study, three distribution formulas were developed. The three



formulas showed that the benefit levels should increase when either relative incomes fell or as household size increased. Each formula was based upon differing assumptions of how benefits (and net burdens of fuel costs) should be distributed among clients.

All formulas factored average household income and fuel usage into the benefit distribution. One of the formulas results in benefits proportional to the disposable income of each household after fuel payments. Another formula assigns benefits differently to households in different relative income categories. A third formula results in benefits proportional to fuel usage.

The results of MISER's work are currently under review by EOCD and its public. EOCD is conducting trials with these formulas to determine their administrative feasibility and distributive outcomes. The three formulas presented by MISER represent an array of benefit principles. Whichever formula is chosen will serve to improve the distribution of fuel assistance to needy households. ■

Women, from page 1

presence in professional positions (i.e. engineers and architects) and executive and management positions.

Women were better compensated in the technical fields, earning over 81% of what men earned. However in sales, women's earnings were only 60% of men's earnings, and in executive positions women earned an average of only about 64%.

MISER's study shows that women are more likely to work part time than men. Women comprise only about 40% of the full-time workforce, while they make up almost 70% of the part-time workforce. The largest number of part-time female workers are between the ages of 30 and 44, which appears to be related to combining work with other activities, such as raising children or going to school. Still, more women work full time than part time overall (61% in 1989, up from 56% in 1979).

In general, women are making progress in many aspects of employment. They have been increasing their numbers in both the full-time and part-time workforces over the last decade. Women are also increasing their earnings at a faster rate than men. If these conditions continue, women will soon close the earnings gap. ■

What's Hot

☞ The *1994 Statistical Abstract of the United States* is now available. It is the most comprehensive reference on the nation's economic and social condition. The 1994 edition has over 90 new tables from hundreds of sources, including government agencies, trade associations, and research institutions. To order, contact either the Govt. Printing Office at (202) 783-3238 or the National Technical Info. Service at (703) 487-4650. (Also available on CD-ROM.) *SDC Affiliates should receive this automatically.*

❖

Affiliates in Action

The 1994 Annual State Data Center Affiliates Meeting was held in August here at the University of Massachusetts. Over 30 affiliates from around the state attended.

Greg Abbott, our Census Bureau program liaison, was here from Washington to demonstrate the LandView™ software package which comes on the TIGER CD-ROM. People were impressed to see how easy it is to target a location and retrieve detailed information to the block level. Hal Wood from the Boston Regional Office of the Census Bureau talked about the 2000 Census test that is currently being conducted in Connecticut, and he gave us a status report on the release of the 1992 Economic Census.

Richard Ureña, Senior Policy Analyst at MISER, gave a sneak preview of our client/server policy database, which will significantly enhance data dissemination via the Internet. John Gaviglio, Data Center Programmer, provided an introduction to thematic mapping using the TIGER Files and MAPINFO. Alice Rarig, MISER Demographic Analyst, gave us some insight into the population projections that she has just released. She explained the methods and models used to calculate those numbers. Roy Williams, Data Center Senior Data Specialist, talked about the release of the new STF4 profiles, which have extensive detailed information about sex, race, and ethnic groups.

With the progress of technology, more information is available to a larger number of people at the touch of a button. MISER has demonstrated through its policy database system that the State Data Center program is no exception. Data dissemination and analysis is a perfect application for client/server databases, as affiliates witnessed for themselves. We believe that this technology will enhance our ability to serve the public and strengthen our program in Massachusetts as well as throughout the nation. ■

➪ Census Bureau Solicits 2000 Census Needs From Non-Federal Users...

The Census Bureau is seeking advice from non-Federal data users about their needs for the 2000 census. Due to budget constraints, certain questions may not be asked on the 2000 census.

The Bureau is conducting a survey that will run through mid-March of 1995, and all non-Federal data users are encouraged to participate. Typical non-Federal data users are State, local, and tribal government agencies; ethnic and community organizations; businesses; academicians and students; and individuals.

Survey respondents will be asked to provide their content requirements, including legal citation where applicable, as well as the smallest geographic level needed for each topic.

To obtain a survey form, contact Gloria Porter or Doug Lee, Bureau of the Census, Room 3555/3, Washington, DC 20233; 301-763-4282 (after December 16, 1994: 301-457-4030); or email: dlee@info.census.gov. ■

Bits and Bytes

☞The National Trade Data Bank is now on the Internet. This is the first building block of the Department of Commerce's economic and business "node" on the Internet, called STAT-USA. Access is free for Internet users. Just use one of the following:

FTP file://ftp.stat-usa.gov
Gopher gopher://gopher.stat-usa.gov
Mosaic http://www.stat-usa.gov/ben.html

For more information, send email to STAT-USA@doc.gov .

☞Alice Rarig, MISER's Demographic Analyst, has been invited to serve on the Steering Committee of the Federal/State Cooperative for Projections and Estimates.

☞The National SDC Steering Committee is discussing issues concerning access to the Internet for data users. If you have any topics that you feel should be considered, please contact Valerie Conti at (413) 545-3460, or via email at vconti@miser.umass.edu.

Oscar's Pick

The *County and City Data Book: 1994* brings together information from nine Federal agencies on social, demographic, and economic variables. It is available in print for $40 from the U.S. Government Printing Office at (202) 783-3238 (Stock #003-024-08753-7). *SDC Affiliates should receive this automatically.*

Population, from page 1

uses demographic information about birth rates, mortality rates, and migration over the previous decade for each municipality. It makes future growth and migration patterns dependent on the age/sex/race composition of each town's population. The model assumes that Massachusetts' educational institutions affect migration patterns (that is, in-migration is higher for the college-aged and out-migration is higher for post-graduates than for other age groups). Since migration did not respond systematically to economic trends in the 1980s (i.e., areas of economic decline experienced high in-migration rates), separate economic projections have not been used in this projection model.

Knowledge of local conditions can help planners make their own forecasts using MISER's projection series as a baseline for comparison. To the extent that constraints on growth, such as housing shortages, building moratoriums, or zoning restrictions limit population increases, the projections for growing communities may prove to be high. In places expected to lose population, there may be economic and demographic changes that reverse or moderate the trend in ways that cannot be accurately forecast. For example, former manufacturing towns may develop resort and tourist services that attract new residents, or 1980s immigrants to urban areas may move out to suburban communities. These changes would represent unpredictable shifts from last decade's patterns.

MISER will monitor indicators of shifts in migration, birth rates, and mortality rates to incorporate these components in biennial updates of the projections. A second release/update this winter will include mid-decade and more detailed race projections. ■

MASSACHUSETTS POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE

Actual 1970-1990, Projected 2000-2010
(numbers in thousands)

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Age					
0-19	2,082	1,722	1,561	1,694	1,754
20-44	1,759	2,116	2,530	2,393	2,233
45-64	1,212	1,173	1,110	1,427	1,819
65-84	585	653	725	742	751
85+	51	74	90	134	164
TOTAL	5,689	5,737	6,016	6,389	6,721

MISERLINE is produced by the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research, Thompson Hall Box 37515, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003
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MISER - "DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION AND SERVICE"

The MISER State Data Center has the most extensive demographic and business-related data offered by the Census Bureau. We can tailor reports to suit your needs, including information about age, income, education, occupation, housing, business, industry, transportation, local government, foreign trade exports, and much more.

MASS. UM13.4:vol.2/no.1

MISERLINE

A Publication of MISER, The Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

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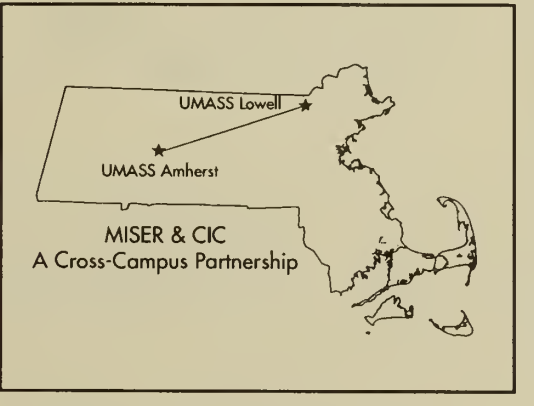
Volume 2 No. 1 *Spring 1995*

MISER & CIC, Partners for Industry

by Tom Pullen, External Affairs Director - Center for Industrial Competitiveness, UMass/Lowell

After nearly a year of informal cooperation, last September MISER and the Center for Industrial Competitiveness (CIC) established the closest cross-campus partnership in UMass history. Under the leadership of William Mass at UMass/Lowell and Stephen Coelen at UMass/Amherst, a direct Internet link was established between the two campuses to enhance the CIC's research capabilities and link MISER to innovative economic sector research.

The CIC is a unique research facility that combines active involvement in industrial restructuring with in-depth scholarly research on the history, theory, and practice of industrial development. The CIC focuses its attention on the evolution of organizational structures and the technological capabilities of selected industrial sectors of the American economy, Massachusetts in particular.



The CIC/MISER partnership centers around a shared employee, Karen MacKinnon, who splits her time between the two campuses. She provides the CIC with access to MISER databases assisting the CIC in completing its research projects.

The CIC Sector Studies program, coordinated by Professor Michael Best, provides research analyses of individual Massachusetts industries (e.g. Plastics, Metalworking, Electronics) focusing on scope, geographic location and density, relative size, and performance compared to international competitors.

The CIC/MISER partnership enhances each organizations' ability to provide relevant information and services to *(page 4)*

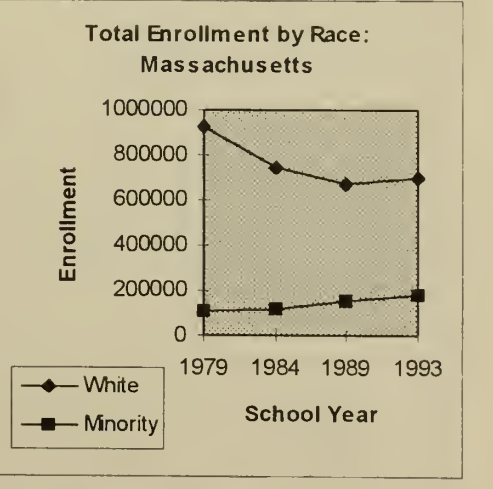
Boston Connects to MISER's Education Database

by David Quinby, MISER Education Data Analyst

Boston will be the first city to connect to BigRED, MISER's Regional Education Database. BigRED is indeed "big" with its time series of detailed information on education from kindergarten to grade 12 in New York and New England.

BigRED is derived from teacher work force censuses and administrative records which vary considerably from state to state. For Massachusetts, the database has student enrollments by race and grade for each of the State's school systems over several years and Educational Assessment Program and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores by school system. It also contains aggregate teacher work force profiles which go back to 1975. This information is readily available to those with an Internet connection, requiring only a PC interface program.

Boston's Community Learning Center Blue Ribbon Commission is the first to use BigRED. *(page 4)*



Answers to Some Commonly Asked Questions

Q. *Can I find out about a specific business in my area?*

A. No, the Census Bureau is required by federal statute to keep data about individual businesses confidential.

Q. *How many people in Massachusetts work at home?*

A. In 1990, 74,855 people worked at home. This figure represents 2.3% of the total labor force.

Q. *What is parity for affirmative action reporting?*

A. When you are required to report parity figures for affirmative action, you are reporting the race, hispanic origin and gender percentages of the job categories and/or labor force in both your business and your recruitment area (city, metro area, county or state). The goal is for your business to achieve percentages similar to your recruitment area. Our EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) reports provide race and gender information for the 512 detailed and 12 summarized occupational categories.

Q. *Can I use the EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) data for more than one year?*

A. Yes, EEO data from the 1990 census can be used until new data are collected. This will certainly be no sooner than the 2000 census.

Q. *How many women in Massachusetts are in the work force?*

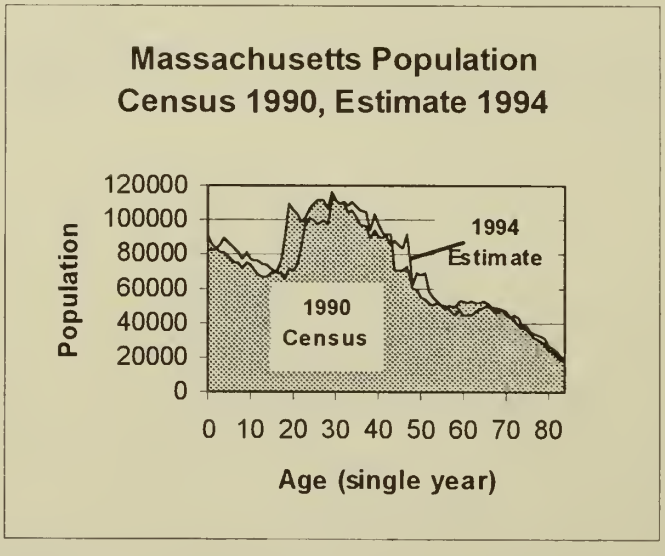
A. In 1990, 1,530,983 women were in the Massachusetts work force. This figure represents 1,442,252 who were employed and 88,731 who were unemployed.

MISER Questions Federal Population Estimates

By Alice Rarig, MISER Demographic Analyst

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population estimates for the years since the 1990 census indicate very slight growth of Massachusetts' population from 6,016,000 to 6,041,000 in the past four years. This is less than 0.5%.

Each year the Census Bureau provides estimates of states' populations by single year of age and sex, as well as total population estimates for counties. Using a new county-based method for generating the state total estimates, and relying primarily on matched federal tax returns to estimate domestic migration, the Bureau has recently released the age/sex specific estimates for Massachusetts for 1990-1994. These estimates show a decrease in the population between ages sixteen and thirty-one, increases in the older working age population up to their late fifties, then declines for ages fifty-seven to sixty-nine.



MISER analysis suggests that some of the decreases may be due to a methodological bias that fails to account adequately for inmigration to Massachusetts of non-taxpayers from 1980 to 1990, in particular college age students and young adults looking for work. Migration patterns by age indicate that, at least in the decade 1980 to 1990, inmigration was accounted for primarily by these two groups.

It will be a priority of MISER to explore the methodological issues raised by these data through the Federal-State Population Estimates Cooperative and to obtain revised estimates for 1990 forward.◆

Affiliates in Action

This year we have initiated a more formal Affiliates Program. This is a two-year renewable program that we hope will strengthen our affiliates network and enable us to more effectively provide information and services to our local communities. Over 50 agencies around the state have either signed up for the program or have requested to join. Affiliate agencies include regional planning and development agencies, state agencies, libraries, and chambers of commerce.

The State Data Center Affiliate Program is designed to enhance public access to Census Bureau data. Affiliates maintain a publicly accessible collection of Census Bureau reference and statistical materials. Affiliates also provide assistance in locating and understanding the data. In addition to Census data, affiliates offer their own special products and services.

We are compiling an *Affiliates Directory* which will include affiliates' products and services. This directory will be distributed to all affiliates and will also be made available to the public. It will be a comprehensive reference designed to assist affiliates with referrals, to encourage cooperative projects, and to let others know about the wealth of information and services that affiliates provide.

For more information please contact MISER at (413) 545-3460.◆

What's Hot

☞ MISER is developing a report about the commuting patterns of Massachusetts workers. It will highlight the top 10 destinations and origins of workers to and from all cities and towns in Massachusetts. It will also include the number of workers who commute to and from the other New England states and New York.

☞ MISER will assist the Boston Community Learning Centers Blue Ribbon Commission in projecting Boston school enrollments to the year 2005. The Commission will recommend capital improvements and construction and repair of the city's schools to the Mayor. MISER will provide enrollment forecasts and simulations of the potential impact of shifts in birth rates or school policies that could affect class sizes.

Boston Office News

by Richard Serani

MISER is acquiring several new databases from a variety of state and federal agencies in an effort to provide more extensive information to our data users. For example:

●The Department of Public Safety has provided us with the Uniform Crime Code Reporting statistics that categorize the incidents of violent and property crime by community. Approximately 250 communities belong to this voluntary reporting program.

●We have collected data about Massachusetts State-owned land and buildings from the Department of Revenue and the State Comptroller's Office.

●We are in the process of obtaining motor vehicle accident statistics for each Mass. community through the Registry of Motor Vehicles.◆

Bits and Bytes

☞The Census Bureau has just released Version 2 of the *TIGER/ Census Tract Street Index*, available as hard copy, CD-ROM, and tape. This new index is a listing by county or county equivalent of streets with address ranges and census tract or block numbering area information. It accounts for 74 million residential addresses and street information for most counties or county equivalents in the U.S. For information call the Census Bureau's Customer Services at (301) 457-4100.

☞ *USA Counties 1994* on CD-ROM has statistics for 2,844 variables for all U.S. counties and their equivalents. This version now comes with LandView II™ software so you can produce county level data computer mapping. The cost is $150. To order, call Customer Services at the Census Bureau at (301) 457-4100. For more information, contact Wanda Cevis at Data User Services (301) 457-1166.

Oscar's Pick

The Projection of the Population: Massachusetts Cities & Towns 1990 to 2010 is a comprehensive report published by MISER that contains population projections for Mass. counties, cities and towns by age, minority status, and sex. It also has state, county, town, and city summary graphs and tables. The report is available either as a book or diskette for $75, or both for $100. To order, call MISER at (413) 545-3460.

BigRED, from page 1

They chose BigRED not only for its unique teacher work force time series (with salary and FTE information by district and teacher age, and gender), but also for its enrollment forecasting that is offered as a part of the package. The forecasts are based on actual births and MISER's birth projections combined with methodology developed by MISER and the Connecticut Department of Education. Last year, MISER enrollment projections were produced for all of Connecticut's school districts. This year MISER is developing both birth and enrollment projection models for Boston to provide enrollment forecasts by race and ethnicity within neighborhood areas to the city.

MISER has enrollment forecasts for all cities and towns in the Commonwealth which are available from the State Data Center.◆

CIC, from page 1

Massachusetts corporations, trade associations, the State Legislature and Executive agencies. MISER's unique information on foreign trade provides data on the Massachusetts, national, and international economies. This data is then used by CIC economic historians and theorists to identify economic trends and industrial transformations.

This partnership is an integral resource in the Lowell and Amherst innovative industrial extension service programs, a key priority in University President Michael Hooker's stated mission. This partnership helps identify investment strategies and organizational structures that are needed to develop and diffuse new technologies to industrial sectors. This work is being used to enable Massachusetts' small and medium sized corporations to remain competitive in global markets. The CIC/MISER partnership also provides these services to industrial sectors around the globe, enhancing CIC and MISER's ability to assist American firms by identifying market opportunities abroad.◆

❖

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The MISER State Data Center has the most extensive demographic and business-related data offered by the Census Bureau. We can tailor reports to suit your needs, including information about age, income, education, occupation, housing, business, industry, transportation, local government, foreign trade exports, and much more.

MASS. UM 13.4: 2/2

MISERLINE

A Publication of MISER, The Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Volume 2 No. 2 ***Fall 1995***

MISER To Help Build Stronger Workforce

by Valerie Conti, MISER Assistant Director

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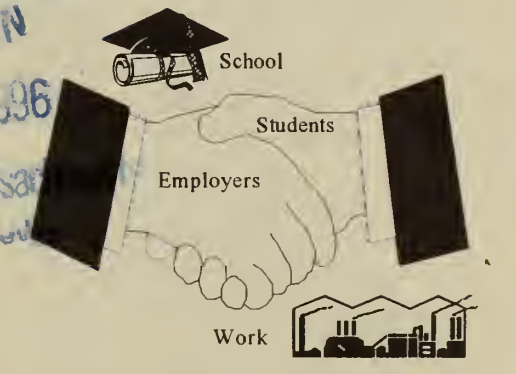


The MassJobs Council recently contracted with MISER and the State's Department of Employment and Training to implement the Placement Accountability System (PAS). This will provide information to the Commonwealth's new School-To-Work and One-Stop-Shopping initiatives. The PAS will be used to examine the impact of training and educational programs on student and trainee workforce participation. Its goal is to measure the effectiveness of training and education in terms of jobs held, employment in fields for which training was obtained, and wage rates.

The PAS will be a client/server database system consisting of data from many sources. MISER will work with the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC), the Departments of Public Welfare, Education, Employment and Training, and other state and federal agencies to collect information relevant to students, trainees and the workforce. MISER will construct a system for examining factors that affect the success of participants in education and training programs.

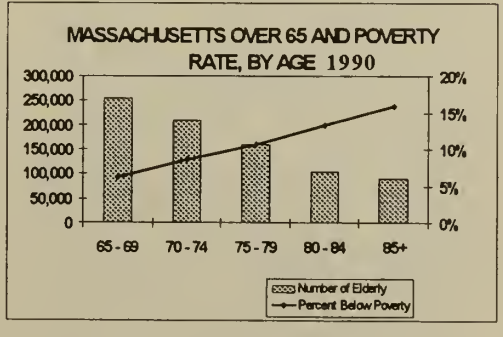
The PAS will track the workforce from school to work, providing both employers and future employees with information to best achieve their labor market goals. It will provide students with information about the training programs with the highest placement rates for people recently completing programs statewide or in specific industries. Students will also be able to evaluate the starting wages that prevail for people completing training programs and entering various industries. ***(page 3)***

Aging In the Bay State - 65 & Over in Massachusetts

by Nancy Goff, MISER Data Specialist

In a recent study, MISER found that Massachusetts has an aging population similar to that of the nation. According to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, persons 65 and over in Massachusetts tend to be poorer than younger people and are frequently living alone. They are most commonly white and female, with minorities comprising less than 4% of the elderly population.

In 1990, 13.6 % of people living in Massachusetts were age 65 and over, compared to 12.5% in the U.S. Since 1970, when 11.1% of the state's population was 65+, the biggest shift that has occurred is in the increasing numbers of those aged 85 and older.



In 1970, there were 51,450 persons 85 and over in Massachusetts. By 1990, that number had climbed to nearly 90,000 (an increase of 75%). MISER has projected this number to increase to 164,000 by 2010.

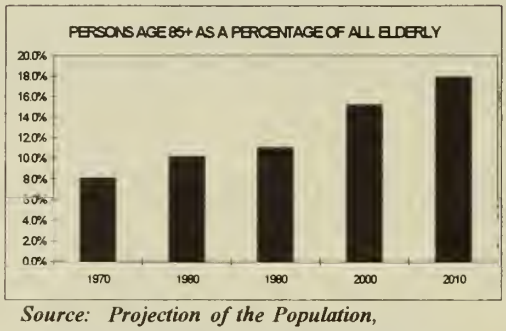
The lives of men and women over age 65 differ in many ways. At every age, death rates for men are higher than women. In 1990, there were more than twice as many women as men 80 years and older, and by age 85, women outnumbered men more than 3 to 1. ***(page 2)***

Over 65, from page 1

Thus, a greater percentage of women live alone after age 65 than do younger women or men at any age. Elderly men tend not to live alone. They are more likely than women to live with a spouse. Those who do not are more likely to live with other family members. Since women tend to outlive men and their incomes are lower, more elderly women are below poverty than men (nearly 12%, as compared to 6% of elderly men).

There are also differences in the sources of income for the elderly. The mix of income varies with age. People are now more likely to work past the age of 65, so between the ages of 65 and 74, wages account for approximately one third of their income. After retirement and by age 85, social security, dividends, and interest are the primary sources of income.

Other factors also change with advancing age. As the number of persons living with their spouses drops, the percentage of the elderly living alone or in nursing homes rises.



Source: Projection of the Population, Massachusetts Cities and Towns Year 2000 and 2010, MISER State Data Center, 1994

Not surprisingly, disability also increases with age (although the elderly are healthier than many assume). Only 10% of those age 65 to 69 reported having any physical limitations. The number increases to 20% in the 75 to 79 age group and then to nearly 50% after age 85.

What does the future hold? Compared with today, future elders will be more highly educated, more racially diverse, and more likely to be 85 and over. In addition, as more women have joined the workforce, their retirement incomes will likely be higher than those of today's elderly women.

The "Baby-Boom" generation (those people born between 1945 and 1960) has not yet entered the ranks of the elderly. Throughout their lives, the absolute numbers of this group have had significant social, economic, and political impact on society. As they age, their needs for retirement income, medical care, and changes in their housing requirements will be enormous. These changes won't be felt until the middle of the next century as the Boomers move into their 60's and 70's. ■

What's Hot

☞Stephen Coelen, Director of MISER, recently addressed the Massachusetts Legislative Caucus on Older Citizens' Concerns. He outlined several major issues that will become more acute with the emergence of a growing older population, such as disability, poverty and living quarters. State Representative John Rogers said, "the demographics detailed by MISER provide lawmakers with the necessary tools to address these issues in a timely and thoughtful way."

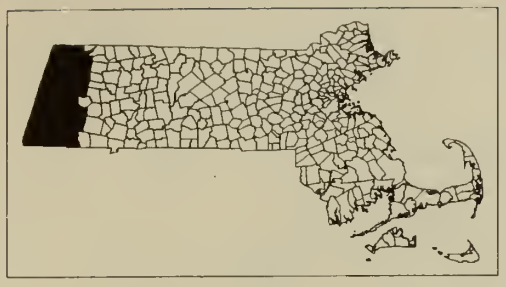
☞MISER continues to make progress with the on-line Policy Database project. The database now contains approximately 5,000 variables available at various geographic levels: City/Town, Counties, and Regions. The "Regions" feature incorporates the regions and/or service areas of numerous state agencies, with close to 800 different regions currently defined.

The Policy Database incorporates variables from a wide range of sources into a single, user-friendly interface. It provides facilities for data query, graphical analysis, simple statistical analysis, data sort, filter, and export. In addition to basic demographic information, MISER's Policy Database contains information on: population projections by age, race and sex, educational enrollments and projections, dropout rates, teacher workforce data, building permits and demolitions, journey-to-work data, municipal finance (Schedule A) data, welfare data and much more.

This summer we began the release of the Policy Database to state agencies. Release to the private sector under licensing agreements will begin in the next few months.

☞Val Conti, Assistant Director of MISER and Coordinator of the Massachusetts State Data Center Program, has been elected to serve a 3-year term on the National SDC/BIDC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee represents the needs and concerns of data users throughout the country and advises the U.S. Bureau of the Census regarding the administration and operation of the Data Center Program.

If you have any suggestions or concerns that you would like to be brought before the Committee, contact Val Conti at MISER. ■



Berkshire County

Berkshire County was founded in 1761. Named after Berkshire County in England, the county is rich in history, culture and atmosphere. Points of interest include Tanglewood, the Shakespeare Festival, Canyon Ranch, the Norman Rockwell Museum, and the Botannical Gardens.

Population	139,352
Male	66,841
Female	72,511
Under 18	31,645
Over65	23,539
Median Age	35.9
Same House as 1985	78,157
Households	54,531
Families:	36,976
Married	29,496
Male Headed Household	1,633
Female Headed Household	5,847
Unemployed	6.7%
Median Household Income	$30,470
Worked in County of Residence	59,890
Total Housing Units	64,324
Median Housing Value	$114,500
Median Year Built	1945
Square Miles	946.3

For more information, contact the Berkshire Visitors' Bureau: (413) 443-9186.
(Statistics shown are from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing)

Workforce, from page 1

The PAS will be able to provide employers with information about the best sources of supply for their labor needs by informing them about institutions with the best record of placement in specific occupational or geographic areas.

The PAS will provide an extensive amount of information about school-to-work issues to students, education and training institutions, and businesses, as well as to policy makers. For the first time, this information will be available in a single source and will allow persons to ask informal questions of the database on the spot.

Creating a link between today's students and tomorrow's jobs is key to Massachusetts' competitiveness in the world marketplace. The PAS will provide much of the information that students, employers, and policy makers need to achieve this goal. ■

Bits and Bytes

☞Feature articles from MISERLINE will now be available on MISER's new Web site. The URL for our homepage is:

http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~miser

☞The 1994 Statistical Abstract is now available on the Internet:

Gopher gopher.census.gov
WWW http://www.census.gov

☞Detailed Income and Poverty Data from the 1994 Current Population Survey is available on the Internet:

Gopher gopher.census.gov
FTP ftp.census.gov
WWW http://www.census.gov

☞MISER's Boston office is scheduling demonstrations of MISER's Policy Database. Please call us for more information.

Oscar's Pick

The KIDS COUNT Data Book 1995 is an annual publication of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This free 168-page report contains information about children throughout the U.S. (on a statewide basis) in an effort to measure their educational, social, economic, and physical well-being. Call (410) 223-2890 or write to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Attn: KIDS COUNT Data Book, 701 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Bargains From the Census Bureau

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